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amnesty international
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ
United Kingdom

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 401/89 Fear of Ill-treatment 17 October 1989

EAST TIMOR/INDONESIA: 40 East Timorese arrested during pro-independence demonstration

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of an estimated 40 East Timorese who were reportedly arrested for their alleged part in a pro-independence demonstration during the visit of the Pope to East Timor on 12 October. According to reports, some of those detained have been subjected to ill-treatment, including electrical shocks, by members of the security forces. Amnesty International believes that in view of the consistent and recurrent pattern of torture and ill- treatment of political detainees in East Timor, those now in detention may be in serious danger of ill-treatment.

The demonstrators, many of them students, reportedly waved banners with messages like "Pope, Please save East Timor!" and chanted slogans in favour of East Timorese independence from Indonesia, before being beaten back and detained by security forces. Eye-witnesses reported that police and military forces used batons to disperse the protesters.

Five East Timorese who feared arrest reportedly took refuge at the home of Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, the Apostolic Administrator of Dili, who has criticized Indonesia's human rights record in the territory. On Sunday 15 October, he reportedly confirmed earlier reports of arrests and claimed that members of the security forces had used torture to extract confessions about the alleged role of the Catholic church in organizing the 12 October demonstration. He is reported to have said: "I am shocked that the Indonesian military is extracting false confessions under torture. The boys were trying to express their discontent with the situation in East Timor. It is a lie that the church was in any way involved in the demonstration."

The arrests took place shortly after the celebration of a mass by the Pope, one of several during his six day visit to Indonesia and East Timor, in which he made a strong appeal for the protection of human rights in East Timor. He said "Respect for the rights which render life more human must be ensured -- the rights of individuals and the rights of families. I pray that those who have responsibility for life in East Timor will act with wisdom and goodwill towards all." Speaking in Jakarta three days earlier, the Pope implicitly criticized Indonesia's human rights record, saying "At times nations are tempted to disregard fundamental human rights in a misguided search for political unity based on military or economic power alone".

Telephone: 01-833 1771 Fax: 01-833 5100 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for *all political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners*.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports that some of those detained have been ill-treated by security forces while in custody;

- seeking guarantees that all those detained in connection with the demonstration on 12 October are being humanely treated while in custody;

- expressing concern at the reported arrest of an estimated 40 people for their part in a non-violent demonstration during the visit of the Pope to East Timor on 12 October and seeking clarification of the reasons for their arrest;

- urging that anyone detained solely for the non-violent expression of their political opinion be immediately released, and that others be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or promptly released.

APPEALS TO:

General Try Sutrisno
Pangab
Markas Besar ABRI
Cilangkap
Jakarta Timur, Indonesia
(Commander in Chief, Armed Forces)

Telegrams: Gen. Sutrisno, Markas Besar ABRI, Jakarta, Indonesia

Ir. Mario Viegas Carrascalao
Gubernur KDH Tk. 1 Timor Timur
Jl. Inpantai D. Hendrikue
Dili, Timor Timur

(Governor of East Timor)

Telegrams: Gubernur Carrascalao, Dili, East Timor

COPIES TO:

The Vatican
00120 Vatican City
Rome, Italy

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 November 1989.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.